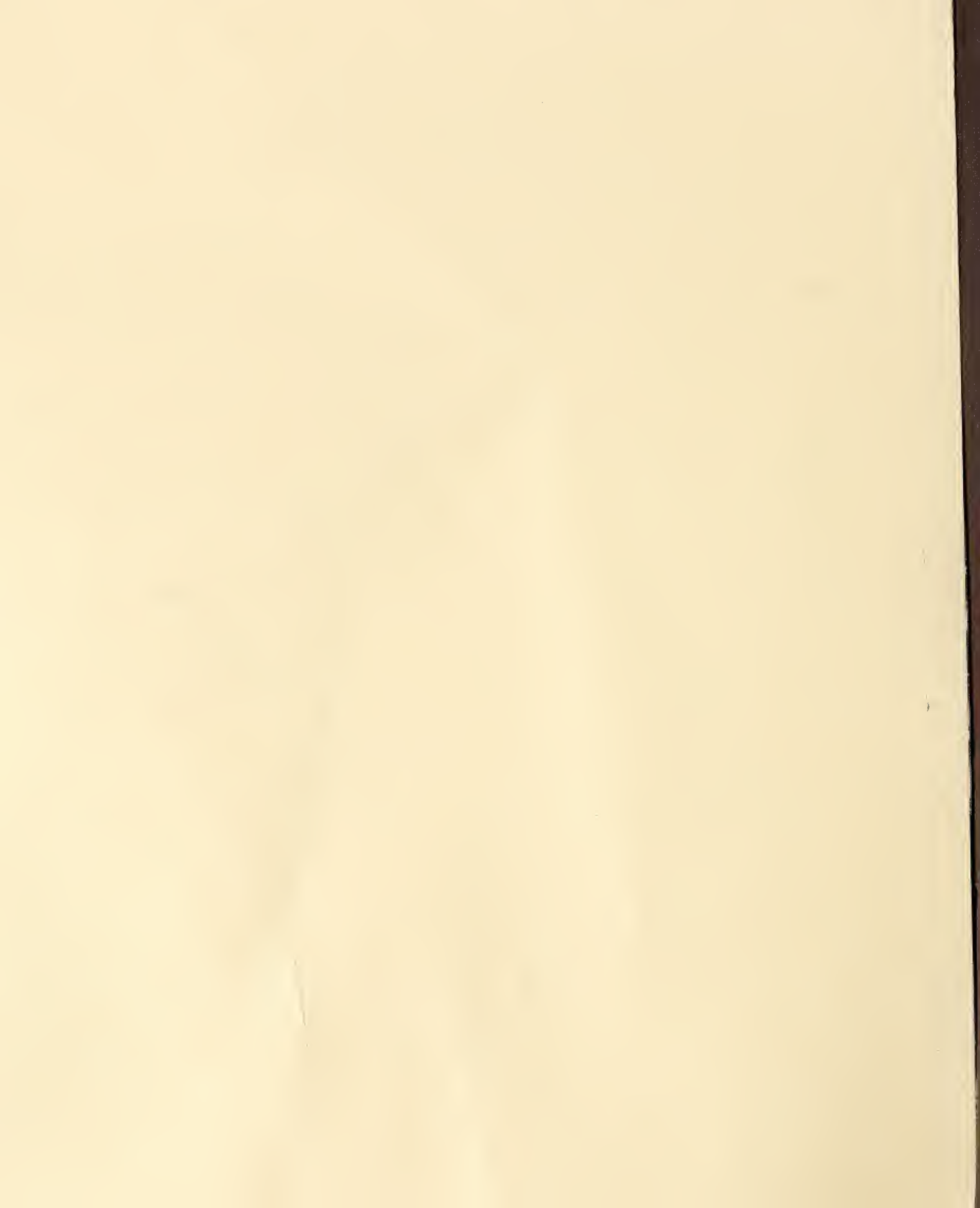


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington 25, D. C.



CONCLUSIONS FROM SURVEY RETURNS

In working up the weekly reporting form, we followed as closely as possible the majority wishes of the industry as expressed by those replying to the questionnaire. A summary of the total responses is attached.

Ninety-five percent of the plants answering the question, "Will you cooperate by supplying weekly information?" stated that they would do so. A large majority of those replying indicated they could best report poultry slaughtered in terms of live weight and number of birds. Many of those who stated they could report New York Dressed or Eviscerated weights, also said they could report number of birds and live weight. The most practical basis for asking for data on poultry slaughtered seems to be in terms of number of birds and live weights.

Most plants use Friday or Saturday as the close of the week for record keeping purposes, but a number of plants also use other days. Therefore, it seems best to ask plants to report for whichever cut-off day is easiest for them. Each plant however should use the same day each week. If it does not matter to the management on which day of the week the plant reports, it would be preferable to follow the majority of other plants and report as of close of business on Friday or Saturday.

There were only a few more plants who indicated that reporting of average weights would be useful as compared with those who thought it would not be helpful. The interest in this information was greatest in the commercial broiler areas and among turkey processors. To serve those who are interested in this figure, space was provided for it in the weekly reporting form.

All the proposed subdivisions of classes of poultry were favored by a majority of plants replying. The subdivisions--hens and cox, commercial broilers and fryers, other young stock, and heavy and light breeds of turkeys have been included in the weekly reporting form.

A breakdown of pounds of birds eviscerated into quantity ice packed and quantity quick frozen was not included in the weekly reporting form because only a minority of plants said they could report eviscerated weights. The quantity of dressed birds received for eviscerating purposes is not included in the proposed weekly reporting form at this time. To make such figures meaningful would involve obtaining records from many plants not slaughtering poultry.

Nearly all plants who slaughter ducks and geese asked that the information pertaining to their kind of poultry be reported. Space is provided for them in the reporting form.



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HOW INFORMATION WILL BE HANDLED

The weekly reporting forms are to be sent directly to Washington, D. C. immediately following the close of business each week. A special post office box has been set aside which will be used only for these reports. This will speed delivery, result in a minimum number of people handling the reports, and protect the confidential nature of the material. Immediately upon being received, the data will be transferred to punch cards. The machine tabulations will then be made and a report prepared for release. It is hoped that this work can be completed by Tuesday afternoon of each week. Total summary figures on poultry slaughtered will be released immediately for distribution over Market News leased wire facilities and will be carried in local Market News reports. Summaries giving regional breakdowns and comparisons with previous periods will be prepared as mimeographed reports. As records become available comparisons will be made with previous weeks and with the corresponding weeks of the previous year. Also, these data will be shown by major regions of the country, such as North and South Atlantic States, East and West North Central States, South Central States, and Western States. The summary report will be sent to you each week. Additional weekly reporting forms will be enclosed with these reports.

POSSIBLE USES OF THE WEEKLY REPORT ON POULTRY SLAUGHTERED

The weekly figures on poultry slaughtered will give a more complete picture than heretofore has been available on the quantity of birds moving to market and should assist individuals in doing a better job of interpreting market conditions. An examination of these data over a period of time should reveal significant relationships between market prices and the quantity moving into consumption channels. The industry then should be better able to judge changing market conditions and adjust rate of slaughter more nearly in line with market requirements.

Already available to the poultry industry are reports on layers on farms, chick placements in thirteen commercial broiler areas, turkey production estimates, and receipts of live and dressed poultry at some terminal markets. The additional information on poultry slaughtered should be useful in appraising the rate at which laying flocks are liquidated and estimating the rate at which the supply of broilers and fryers on farms is accumulating or being depleted. The average weight figures on commercial broilers will provide an additional check on whether supplies are moving to market ahead of the rate indicated by chick placements or are being held back. Regional comparisons of these data will show changes in competitive conditions. Data on turkey slaughtering will be of value in checking how well producers are following their prior expressed intentions to market. By relating data on poultry slaughtered to increased or decreased holdings of poultry in storage, indications may be had of the net amount moving into consumption channels.

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RESULTS OF SURVEY ON
MARKET NEWS REPORTING OF POULTRY SLAUGHTERED

1. In which of the following ways would it be most useful to have Market News report quantity of birds slaughtered?

Commodity	: Number : Of Birds	: Live : Weight : Of Birds	: "New York" : Dressed Weight : Of Birds	: Eviscerated : Weight of : Birds
Chickens Slaughtered	-----	Number of Replies	-----	-----
Old Stock (Hens and Cox) ..	172	241	51	79
Young Stock	177	236	42	76
Turkeys Slaughtered	215	236	57	101

2. In which of the following ways could quantity of poultry slaughtered by your plant be reported from available plant records?

Commodity	: Number : Of Birds	: Live : Weight : Of Birds	: "New York" : Dressed Weight : Of Birds	: Eviscerated : Weight of : Birds
Chickens Slaughtered by Your Plant	-----	Number of Replies	-----	-----
Old Stock (Hens and Cox) ...	179	267	69	94
Young Stock	193	271	58	95
Turkeys Slaughtered by Your Plant	225	265	72	116

3. To facilitate weekly reporting from available plant records which day should be used as the close of business?

-----	Number of Replies	-----
Monday 10, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 24, Thursday 70, Friday 109, Saturday 207, Doesn't Matter 56		

4. Would it be useful to have Market News report average weight of birds slaughtered? Yes 240 No 237

5. Would you favor having the above classes of poultry reported by subdivisions as follows:

- a. Separate Old Stock into (1) Hens and (2) Cox? Yes 275 No 158
b. Separate Young Stock into Commercially Grown Broilers and Fryers, and (2) Other Young Stock? Yes 279 No 158
c. Separate Turkeys into (1) Heavy, and (2) Light Breeds? ... Yes 362 No 71

6. Should pounds of birds eviscerated be reported according to quantity ice packed and quantity frozen? Yes 241 No 206

7. Should quantity of dressed poultry received from other plants for evisceration purposes be reported Yes 229 No 177

8. Should slaughter information be reported for:

- a. Ducks? Yes 169 No 234
b. Geese? Yes 213 No 247

9. Would you be interested in receiving the Weekly Market News report on quantity of poultry slaughtered? Yes 465 No 35

10. Will you cooperate by supplying weekly information on the points which you have indicated above as being useful? Yes 471 No 24

